



State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
Division of Medicaid

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR
KARL B. KURTZ
DIRECTOR
JOSEPH R. BRUNSON
ADMINISTRATOR

Bureau of Facility Standards

3380 Americana Terrace
Suite 260
Boise, ID 83720-0036
(208) 334-6626
Fax (208) 364-1888

INFORMATIONAL LETTER #2002-1

DATE: January 14, 2002
TO: ALL IDAHO HOME HEALTH AGENCIES
FROM: DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards
SUBJECT: **SKILLED NURSING SERVICES**

It is our understanding that a few providers have interpreted surveyor statements regarding skilled nursing services (IDAPA 16.03.07.024.01.j.) incorrectly and we want to correct any misunderstanding. IDAPA 16.03.07.024.01.j states:

"SKILLED NURSING SERVICES. The HHA furnishes nursing services by or under the supervision of a registered nurse in accordance with the plan of care. Registered Nurse. A registered nurse assures that care is coordinated between services and that all of the patient's needs identified by the assessments are addressed. A registered nurse performs the following: For patients receiving care from a licensed practical nurse, the registered nurse reviews the plan of care and nursing services received at least every two (2) weeks and documents this in the patient's medical record."

Neither the rule nor the Department requires an on-site visit by a registered nurse to achieve compliance with this requirement. The Department continues to review patient clinical records for documentation, every two weeks, reflecting a registered nurse has reviewed the written plan of care and the nursing care provided by the licensed practical nurse followed the plan of care, at least every two weeks.

If you have questions, you may contact Virginia Loper, R.N., Supervisor, Residential Community Care Program at (208) 334-6626.

DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

DR/nah
cc: Idaho Association of Home Health Agencies